

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition consisting essentially of oxidizable iron and a tartrate.
2. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 1 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%.
3. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 1 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%.
4. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 1 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%.
5. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 1 wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of potassium acid tartrate, sodium acid tartrate, potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate, and sodium tartrate dihydrate.
6. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition consisting essentially of iron and a tartrate ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 1~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of dipotassium tartrate; ammonium tartrate, dibasic; calcium tartrate dihydrate; diethyl tartrate; and diisopropyl tartrate.
7. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 1 including a water-absorbing agent.
- 8.. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 7 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said

tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 1% and 50%.

9. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 7 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 3% and 30%.

10. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 7 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 5% and 15%.

11. - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising oxidizable iron and a tartrate wherein said composition is free from carbon dioxide generating compounds.

24. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 23 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%.

25. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 23 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%.

26. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 23 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%.

27. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 23 wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of potassium acid tartrate, sodium acid tartrate, potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate, and sodium tartrate dihydrate.

28. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 23 wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of dipotassium tartrate; ammonium tartrate, dibasic; calcium tartrate dihydrate; diethyl tartrate; and diisopropyl tartrate.

29. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 23 including a water-absorbing agent.

30. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 29 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 1% and 50%.

31. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 29 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 3% and 30%.

32. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 29 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 5% and 15%.

33. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising iron and a tartrate ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 29~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of potassium acid tartrate, sodium acid tartrate, potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate, and sodium tartrate dihydrate.

34. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising iron and a tartrate ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 29~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of dipotassium tartrate; ammonium tartrate, dibasic; calcium tartrate dihydrate; diethyl tartrate; and diisopropyl tartrate.

35. - 39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition consisting essentially of oxidizable iron, a tartrate, and an electrolyte.

41. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 40 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%.

42. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 40 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%.

43. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 40 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%.

44. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 40 wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of potassium acid tartrate, sodium acid tartrate, potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate, and sodium tartrate dihydrate.

45. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition consisting essentially of iron, a tartrate, and an electrolyte ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 40~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of dipotassium tartrate; ammonium tartrate, dibasic; calcium tartrate dihydrate; diethyl tartrate; and diisopropyl tartrate.

46. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 40 including a water-absorbing agent.

47. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 46 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 1% and 50%.

48. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 46 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 3% and 30%.

49. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 46 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 5% and 15%.

50. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition consisting essentially of iron, a tartrate, and an electrolyte ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 46~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of potassium acid tartrate, sodium acid tartrate, potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate, and sodium tartrate dihydrate.

51. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition consisting essentially of iron, a tartrate, and an electrolyte ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 46~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of dipotassium tartrate; ammonium tartrate, dibasic; calcium tartrate dihydrate; diethyl tartrate; and diisopropyl tartrate.

52. - 63. (Canceled)

64. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising oxidizable iron, a tartrate, and an electrolyte wherein said composition is free from carbon dioxide generating compounds.

65. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 64 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%.

66. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 64 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%.

67. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 64 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%.

68. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 64 wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of potassium acid tartrate, sodium acid tartrate, potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate, and sodium tartrate dihydrate.

69. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising iron, a tartrate, and an electrolyte ~~An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 64~~ wherein said tartrate is selected from the group consisting of dipotassium tartrate; ammonium tartrate, dibasic; calcium tartrate dihydrate; diethyl tartrate; and diisopropyl tartrate.

70. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 64 including a water-absorbing agent.

71. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 70 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 55% and 98%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 3% and 50%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 1% and 50%.

72. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 70 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 70% and 95%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 5% and 35%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 3% and 30%.

73. (Original) An oxygen-absorbing composition as set forth in claim 70 wherein said iron is present by weight in an amount of between about 80% and 90%, and wherein said tartrate is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 20%, and wherein said water-absorbing agent is present in an amount of between about 5% and 15%.

74. - 79. (Canceled)